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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT The KPP and Other Pre-War Communist Organizations in Poland

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. The Comintern had its own Polish section which directed the activities of the KPP (Polish Communist Party) on Polish soil.

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three Comintern bureaus functioned before the war. They were located in Gdansk, Berlin, and Czechoslovakia (possibly Prague).

2. The lowest organizational unit of the underground KPP was the Party cell (Komorka) which consisted of five or six members. The head of the cell was the Secretary who maintained contact with the next highest Party echelon (Czlonkowie Dzielniczy) from which he received his instructions. The Party cell met about once a week. Meetings took place in forests, parks, sand lots, river banks, street corners, and any other secluded places where discussions could be held freely. During winter months or in inclement weather, meetings were held in the homes of members or Party sympathizers. Every cell member had his own pseudonym and the full identity of fellow members was not always known. Great emphasis was placed on preserving the conspiracy in view of the strong anti-Communist measures taken by the police.

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3. The principal activity of the KPP during the 1933-39 period consisted of:

- a. Fomenting strikes and creating disturbances.
- b. Agitation among labor groups, trade unions and within the Socialist Party.
- c. Agitation among minority groups (Jews, Ukrainians, Byelorussians), especially oppressed elements, both leftist and rightist.
- d. Agitation within any group showing dissatisfaction with the existing political and social order.
- e. Distributing leaflets and Communist literature.
- f. Attending Communist-sponsored demonstrations, parades, public meetings for agitation purposes.
- g. Painting Communist slogans on walls, fences, streets, etc.
- h. Recruiting new members.

4. The KPP was quick to exploit any group in Poland which was dissatisfied with the existing order. The Ukrainians were one such group, despite the fact that they did not see eye to eye with the KPP on many issues, notably the question of Ukrainian autonomy. But it was much easier to find adherents to the Communist ideal among Ukrainians than among Polish rightists; hence the close relations. Source states that the KPP followed the line (with the Ukrainians) that only through the destruction of the existing rightist order in Poland would it be possible to organize an independent Ukrainian state. The KPP was most active with Ukrainians in the Ivov area. Source has no information on personalities in the Ukrainian Nationalist Movement.

- 5. Because of the government drive against Communists during the 1933-39 period, the Communist Party systematically avoided the rightist government parties in its agitation work. Source points out that most of the Communist literature used before the war was smuggled into Poland from Czechoslovakia.
- 6. The KPP attained its greatest successes in Poland during 1933-36 due to the depressed economic state of Poland and the general discontent and restive spirit prevailing throughout the country at that time. The Party line at that time was the creation of a united peoples' front throughout the world. Fascism (Hitler style) was to some extent endorsed as a means of accelerating revolution. The years 1936-39 marked the decline of the KPP due to the official Polish drive to rid the country of subversive elements.
- 7. As a general commentary on the pre-war work of the KPP, Source states that the effort was very badly organized and loosely directed. After 1936, the Party was thoroughly penetrated owing to the irresponsibility of its membership, primitive methods of recruitment, and lack of a qualified control and security apparatus.
- 8. The KPP was disbanded in the spring of 1938. The action resulted from a decision of the Comintern which ordered the dissolution allegedly because the KPP was penetrated by provocateurs. Two or three other Communist Parties (Yugoslavia might have been one of these) were dissolved at the same time. On dissolution of the KPP, each Party member was given no special instructions except to find his own way to further the interests of the working class. The Polish leadership of the Party then went underground.

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9. The Komitet Uchodzcow (a Polish organization working in behalf of Czech refugees) worked in Krakow and Stalinogrod (formerly Katowice). In Stalinogrod, it was headed by an Englishwoman (name unknown) and in Krakow the chief was Hermann FIELD. The purpose of the organization was to exfiltrate Czech nationals to the West, among them Communists, Socialists, etc., who were threatened by the Gestapo after the German entry into Poland in 1939.
10. The Unitarian Service Committee (USC) [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] was created to recruit Communists and Communist sympathizers who were to return to their native countries to resume their Party work. The USC functioned in Poland until 1947-48. 50X1-HUM

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